

# The Shakerite

December 21, 2001 • Volume 72 • Issue 4 • Shaker Heights High School • 15911 Aldersyde Drive • Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

## take a PEEK

Ho, ho, ho!

**3** Mary O'Connell says 'tis the season for a commercial Christmas. **Opinion**

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## let it SNOW

Forget what snow looks like? According to the National Weather Service, Cleveland has seen only 1 inch of snow so far this year compared to 32.9 inches last year. Just in case some of the white stuff falls over break, here's some snowfall terminology.

**Snow Blindness:** Impaired vision or temporary blindness caused by sunlight reflected from the snow. The medical term is "niphalepsia." **Snow Burn:** Similar to a sun burn caused by sunlight reflecting

off of snow. **Snow Eater:** A warm wind blowing over a snowy surface. **Snow Grains:** Very small pieces of ice. Frozen drizzle. **Snow Garland:** A long strand of snow crystals frozen together that can sometimes be seen hanging off of fences and trees and other objects. **Snow Spout:** A whirlwind that picks up loose snow. Also called a snow devil.

Compiled by Will Bostwick from "National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Weather."

## Vandals target club messages with slurs



Pro-environmental stickers were put on "Romeo and Juliet" posters.

• Theater, Alliance fliers, among those defaced with writing

By Abby Hexter and Renee Frantz  
Staff Reporters

Anger and disappointment filled the heart of theater student Rachel Cahn when she saw many of the "Romeo and Juliet" posters that she and fellow theatre students spent time putting up. They had been defaced with

stickers and anti-gay slurs.

"We put so much work into the production, and if people don't care, then they don't have to come and watch," Cahn said. "But to vandalize our posters is just immature and a waste of their time."

The defacing of club posters is on the rise and has affected several clubs including the theater department, the Gay-Straight Alliance and the wrestling team.

Two theater department fliers promoting "Romeo and Juliet" were defaced by someone who, using a red pen, wrote that a par-

ticular student "is a fag" who "will get [his] ass kicked." Journalism teacher Natalie Sekicky, who is a Gay-Straight Alliance adviser, removed one of the fliers from the wall in the cafeteria hallway.

A student brought Sekicky the other flier.

In another instance, professionally made theater posters were ruined when students affixed stickers to them.

The environmentally-friendly stickers read, "I was prettier when I was a tree."

SEE SIGNS, PAGE 2

## MELTING DOWN

• LTV STEEL'S FAILURE SPILLS OVER INTO SHAKER

By Kyan Savavi  
Staff Reporter

As Shaker security guard Karen Wilson keeps a watchful eye on students in the halls something lingers at the back of her mind, something that causes her anxiety for friends and loved ones.

"Houses, cars going up for sale—it's bad," Wilson said. "I know a lot of people affected by the closing, and it's terrible."

Last month, LTV Corp., the largest steel manufacturer in Cleveland, announced that it would stop producing steel and the smoke stacks that have become a symbol of Cleveland's blue-collar heritage would go idle. LTV filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy last December, but has fought desperately to keep its furnaces glowing for the past year. But after the resignation of Chairman William H. Bricker and a judge's ruling against the plant, more than 90 years of steel making came to an end.

More than 3,000 jobs were lost, causing a shiver that reverberated throughout greater Cleveland.

Shaker students were not immune to the halt.

The shutdown claimed the jobs of some steelworkers who worked at the plant for decades. "One of my friends had been working there for 22 years and he lost his job just like that," Wilson said.

LTV retirees will also be hit hard by the shutdown. "My grandfather [who worked at LTV] died. My grandmother won't get the money from the retirement checks that the plant provided. My grandfather worked hard for that money. It's hard for those retired and deceased," junior Kristin Wright said.

A fundamental reason why LTV was forced to shut down is competition. Foreign steel mills produce steel at lower costs than local mills, although steel is shipped from as far away as Sweden.

The brawny-shouldered image of a steelworker doing his job has lost its shine for one student.

Asked about his image of a steelworker, sophomore Nadav Weinberg said, "I think of a big, strong, intimidating, but likable man. I think of a guy loyal to his family and his work."

**"One of my friends had been working there for 22 years and he lost his job just like that."**

Karen Wilson  
security guard



More than 3,000 people were left jobless when LTV closed.

## Committee seeks students for respectful dialogue

By Alex Buder Shapiro  
Staff Reporter

Issues of respect have been causing problems at the high school, and teachers and students have taken action to turn the tide of discourtesy.

On Dec. 4, 15 students stayed after school instead of enjoying early dismissal. The teens helped the teachers of the RESPECT committee figure out ways to change the high school into a more respectful environment.

The meeting began with a dis-



Will Bostwick/The Shakerite

The Respect Committee hopes to cut down on the number of referrals.

cussion of troubles encountered by students at school, and quickly focused on lack of respect as the root of many of these problems.

SEE RESPECT, PAGE 2

## Student assaulted in restroom

• Victim's teachers not informed of incident

By Joseph Tartakoff  
Co-editor in chief

Junior Sean Ferguson underwent nose surgery after he was kicked to the floor of the restroom near room 217 and robbed Nov. 30.

"It was fourth period lunch and I was hanging out with my friends when a group of students came and began harassing us," Ferguson alleges. "One of the members of the group asked me over and over again if I wanted to buy marijuana from him."

"I was really intimidated," said Ferguson, who is a Shakerite reporter. "Finally I went [into the restroom] with him and one of his

friends to look at it. He kept on asking me how much marijuana I wanted to buy. I told him that I did not want to buy any, and his friend grabbed me from behind.

"I tried to get out of his hold and he started punching me. I don't know how I ended up on the ground, but I did, and he started kicking me in the face. They started going through my wallet."

Their whole intent was to rob me," he said.

Once the two attackers fled, Ferguson went to the school nurse. He suffered a broken nose.

The Shaker Heights Police Department incident report declares

SEE ROBBERY, PAGE 2



## Griffith calls robbery isolated incident

FROM ROBBERY, PAGE 1

only that "Master Ferguson states that on [Nov. 30], while in the men's restroom, located on the southeast side of the second floor, he was assaulted and robbed." The report indicated that \$30 and a leather wallet were taken.

The only suspect that Ferguson could identify, junior Antojuan "Tiger" Latorres, was apprehended within 10 minutes. The other attacker has not been found, Ferguson said.

Latorres could not be reached for comment and is currently at the Cuyahoga County Detention Center. His attorney did not return three calls for comment.

Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson declined to say whether Latorres had any previous record of breaking school policies.

"I am not at liberty to speak about any specifics related to this issue," he said.

Principal Michael Griffith said that the incident was an isolated one.

"No matter what rules we have

**We inform students about events that are relevant. This particular event does not merit further attention.**

Michael Griffith  
principal

in the building, people will still make their own choices. We took the strongest measure we could have taken with the [assailant]."

Griffith added that Ferguson's teachers were not informed of the attack and robbery even though Ferguson missed three days of school.

He cited an error in communication.

"When a student is injured his teachers should have been notified. [Unfortunately], this is not what happened," Griffith said.

Ferguson is disappointed that this action was not taken.

"My teachers should have been informed. I should not have had to tell them one by one. They

should not have had to work to find out," he said.

Griffith said that there was no attempt to hide the robbery.

"There was no conscious attempt to hush-hush this incident. This incident was not for public consumption. We inform students about events that are relevant. This particular event does not merit further attention."

Sophomore Mitch Frank disagrees.

"I think the administration should have told us because now we are just learning it by word of mouth and that will just blow it out of proportion. For example, I heard that there were two robberies," he said.

Junior Nikki Goldstein holds a different point of view.

"I have not heard anything about it. It makes me kind of scared, though," she said. "It's none of our business. I think it's just being kept secret because Shaker doesn't want the media getting a hold of it."

A Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court employee refused to release any information concerning the status of Latorres' case.

## Violence near Campbell residence

By Kelly Schaefer  
News Co-editor

Twelve-year-old Lorenzo Locklear was shot by a Cleveland police officer near Shaker Square on Dec. 6. According to the police, the officer was assigned to protect Mayor-elect Jane Campbell's home and fired shots into Lorenzo Locklear's stolen station wagon.

Cleveland police said that Patrolman Edward Lentz, Jr. was outside Campbell's home when a station wagon stopped in front of the house. As

Lentz approached the vehicle, it slammed into a tree and then ran into Lentz, who became stuck on the roof.

Lentz fired three shots into the car, hitting Locklear's hand, thigh and foot. A 14-year-old boy was also in the car but not injured.

According to the Plain Dealer, police said Lentz feared the possibility that the vehicle would hit pedestrians or an RTA train.

Junior Lisa Hukill questions the legitimacy of the shooting. "He should have been more careful and maybe shot at the car wheels to scare the boys," Hukill said.



A police vehicle has been assigned to patrol Cleveland mayor-elect Jane Campbell's house 24 hours a day. On Dec. 6, Patrolman Edward Lentz, Jr. was injured when he was hit by a stolen car near Campbell's home.

## Club posters fall victim to vandalism

FROM SIGNS, PAGE 1

Senior Jordan Rogoff, who worked with costumes in "Romeo and Juliet," was upset by the stickers appearing on the posters. "They didn't think about it before putting them up," she said.

Six Gay-Straight Alliance fliers have been defaced by someone who used a yellow marker to write "FAGS" on them. The fliers, which informed members of meeting times and of community resources, were posted on a bulletin board outside room 231 and in other locations, and were targeted on two occasions. In the first instance, English teacher Aimee Keck noticed the defaced fliers before first period and removed them before school began so students would not see them.

When Gay-Straight Alliance adviser Cindy Finch brought the matter to Principal Michael Griffith, he suggested replacing the bulletin board with a glass

case. Therefore, if the vandalism were to continue, it would be considered defacing school property, an offense that merits a harsher punishment.

"I feel that it was an abuse of a constitutional right, and a defamation of materials that we are permitted to post per the school harassment policies," Finch said.

The derogatory words written on Gay-Straight Alliance posters caught Assistant Principal Neil Glazer's attention. "I don't think that someone specifically is out to get [the Gay-Straight Alliance]. But if I am wrong, this tells us that we must do a better job educating everybody about other peoples' life choices, whether they be sexual, cultural or religious," he said.

Students have not only disrespected clubs but also individual students. Last year after creating numerous Student Council campaign posters, sophomore Tim Kolb was disappointed to see many of them had been damaged

or torn.

"It is so discouraging to see my classmates show so little feeling by disrespecting the work and effort I put into the posters," Kolb said.

In October, wrestling coach Charlie Morgan posted yellow fliers with motivational messages throughout the school. Shortly thereafter, someone scrawled "Shaker hockey" on several of them.

Glazer believes that vandalism is a "symptom of the general disrespect for other people's property." He noted that this disrespect could also be seen in students not using the trash cans in the cafeteria and in littering.

Alliance adviser Finch insists the behavior will not stop the club from meeting.

"We are not going to let this drop, and we are not going to stop putting up posters," Finch said. "The world has come a long way, and we can't let it slide backwards."

## Issues of respect surface

FROM RESPECT, PAGE 1

Senior Lloyd Derricoatte remembered times he encountered conflicts over respect issues, as well as the difficulty of finding a solution without causing more problems.

"Things have been said to me, and I ignore them, but they keep saying them," Derricoatte said.

Senior Lauren Gibbons offered advice on how one can deal with such situations.

"You don't always have to be defensive and blow things out of proportion. You can be more considerate," Gibbons said.

Many attempts have been made over the years to solve the respect issue at Shaker, but the teachers of the RESPECT committee agree that they have been unsuccessful.

Art teacher Jody Trostler said that the respect meetings with

students are a step in the right direction.

"If you just start with 20 people, then it will have the domino effect," Trostler said.

At the meeting, students discussed the need to respond to an insult.

One boy told of the time he saw two kids escalate a disagreement over a cafeteria chair into a full-blown fight.

The group wondered whether the cafeteria chair was worth the discipline that followed.

Edite Millere, a junior, thinks that the words "be respectful" should be repeated until students get the message.

"Students may find it annoying, and teachers may find it hard, but we need it. We as a society need it. We are all human beings. Everyone is the same as we are, they can't make us feel bad," Millere said.

## Corrections

In the Dec 5 issue of The Shakerite, Jon Bender was inappro-

pnately quoted in the AP World History article. He was not formally interviewed for the story. The Shakerite regrets the error.

### The Shakerite

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## the 'rite ARTIST



Rick Jennings/The Shakerite

## Students have the right to know if school is safe

Blood on walls. An attack in the basement. A fire in the basement. Drug deals. A teacher with a blackened eye.

What, have we rolled into "Boston Public"? Our parents pay high property taxes to send us to a public school that provides great education for some and decreased safety for all.

As students, we have the right to know what is going on in our school. Within the past month there have been several brutal fights. Custodians had to clean blood off the wall after a brawl in room 204 that left a

teacher as well as students injured. School personnel also prohibited a Shakerite photographer from taking a picture of

gang-like graffiti outside room 226.

Such incidents are inevitable in today's violent climate. The administration has no business sitting on the fact that these events take place. By withholding information, rumors abound and students' fear becomes irrational, which can result in even more violence. The school's climate has become more dangerous. To alleviate the problem, those in charge must first address it. We need an all-school meeting, a letter addressed to every stu-

dent and parent, or at the very least a PA announcement explaining that these things are going on and they will not be tolerated. Specific names and details need not be divulged.

Obviously something is wrong at Shaker if students are busting other students' noses open and beating up a teacher in the process. The administration needs to stop handling these incidents without parents and take control of the school, compromising some of our too-liberal freedoms.

The problem isn't going to fix itself. Shaker's powers-that-be need to take the advice of many 12-step programs: the first step to getting help is admitting that you have a problem.

## the 'rite IDEA

## Too many thrive on drama

By Stevona Rogers  
Guest Writer

Tell me who's your housekeeper and what you keep in your house. What about diamonds and gold? Is that what you keep in your mouth? What in the world is in that case? My business, my business. Stay the — up out my business. Because these people all up in my — and it's my business, my business. Stay the — out my business because it's mine, oh mine — Ludacris

In the December issue of the Shakerite, Patricia Chatman boldly announced, "If I want to have an orgasm, wear a tank top, or cheat on my boyfriend it's none of your business."

The last thing Patricia said was, "it's none of your business." This left an impression on me. In the hallways every day, people talk. This is not a problem. People need communication, right? The problem arises when people do not discuss their own business.

This world is full of people who are full of crap and drama. These people are what I like to call "drama grabbers" because they live to grab any kind of drama, in any form or fashion. They feed on people's prob-

lems, as if they were themselves flawless. They feel no remorse for invading others' privacy and spreading around their personal business.

You know these people. You see them every day. They are in the lunchroom, in the back of your math class, at the locker next to you. We all know them, the people who make everyone want to know who had sex with whom, who stole from whom. The people who ask, "Doesn't she have a boyfriend? Did you hear what she did?"

Whether the gossip is true doesn't matter. The point is, it's not your business. It simply doesn't concern you. Gossips don't realize that two minutes of gossip can bring two years of unwanted memories because they had the "latest news" and just couldn't wait to tell everybody. Or because they just had to know what "really" happened.

Drama could be avoided if people would just mind their own business and keep their mouths shut. It's that simple. I know that most of us remember playing the telephone game when we were kids. Everyone sat in a circle, and the teacher told the first kid a message. By the time you got to the end of the circle, the message was totally different and everyone laughed at the drastic difference. Back then it was just a silly game,

but today it's reality, and most rumors are not a laughing matter.

It's not right to spread rumors because someone lost a fight or because they "got theirs." Every once in a while we all make mistakes and come up short. It's hard enough to deal with personal problems, let alone to deal with petty rumors started by jealous, trivial people. It's time to grow up. Being a tattletale is a grade school trait. Come on, people. Let's not play the immature role anymore. I am a human being with pride and dignity like many of you, and I respect everyone who respects me. Privacy and respect go hand in hand. What happens in the privacy of my home, or what I do with my leisure time, is not anyone's business. People should respect that.

So to all the "drama grabbers," cut the crap. The tongue is a powerful instrument, and it should be used cautiously. If you know something, do the smart thing and just keep it on the hush. Don't say anything to anyone. (Don't even tell someone and warn him not to repeat it. We all know that never works.) Remember, what goes around comes around. So next time you feel the need to broadcast someone's personal business or make up rumors, remember you'll be the one caught out there in the end.

## 'Tis the season to decorate

By Mary O'Connell  
Staff Reporter

We've done a pretty good job of taking the saint out of St. Nick.

He's at the mall getting his picture taken with snotty-nosed, teary-eyed children. He's ringing a bell on the street and he's on TV with the mayor. Yes, Santa is everywhere, he has successfully joined the ranks of Pokemon, Mickey Mouse and the Tooth Fairy.

But what are the Jolly One's origins? How does he tie into the observance of the birth of Jesus Christ?

At some point, the two men's paths diverged, and what was once a religious symbol is now a cultural symbol as well.

Some people believe Santa is just one example of the over-commercialization of the holiday season. They claim that glowing reindeer on one's lawn trivialize Christmas, that the blessed holiday has been commercialized.

Others argue that the poinsettia-printed paper plates are the true meaning of the holidays, as are the bows and goodies, the holly and the gilt, the candles, the reindeer and the lights especially the lights.

When it seems like the cold has killed everything vegetative, it can't hurt to drag one of the few remaining pieces of greenery into the house, throw on something sparkly, and call it a Christmas tree in the hope that it will bring new life to the living room. Don't get me wrong, I'm not

advocating an all-out, budget-destroying spending blitz. Just because they're selling it doesn't mean that you have to buy it. Remember, no bogeyman can impose commercialization on your personal celebration of the season. Only you can trivialize its significance by forgetting that the gift is only a symbol of a caring person, and by confusing love with money. If you've made that mistake, don't blame it on the secular holiday paraphernalia. They don't mean any harm.

What could possibly be better than bringing everyone you love together to eat good food and give one another presents?

What's the harm in trying to jazz things up by changing that appearance of your house? These things make us happy. Winter sucks. I could never survive without a celebration.

Let's designate all of December as the time to be happy and give gifts and have parties. And don't worry about damaging the integrity of a holiday whose observance was punishable by fine in the original version of the Shaker charter. (The original Shakers were never big on celebration.)

I can see it now. People of all religions enjoying the simple pleasures of the season... we could call it the holiday season, and even those who don't find its days to be particularly holy could still join in the merriment.

So go ahead, have a candy cane, watch "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and most importantly, have fun.

## Another kick in the face

By Sean Ferguson  
Staff Reporter

Lately I've had a string of bad luck that is almost humorous when you look at it. It seems like a plot out of some 1980 Steve Martin movie where he has bad luck and it's really funny. Except in real life, it's not funny, and I can't really look at it objectively.

When I was mugged, the first thought that went through my mind was, "Damn it, they actually got my wallet!"

At the time, the fact that my wallet was stolen pissed me off much more than the fact that I was brutally assaulted and was bleeding from my nose and mouth. It added insult to injury, even more than the final kick the student delivered to my face before he left the second floor boys' bathroom.

Now, three weeks later, I still haven't been able to deliver a metaphorical kick to my attacker's face.

Sure, he was expelled from the high school, spent a weekend in jail, and, I hope, got a "stern talking-to" from his parents.

But looking at the damage the student viciously inflicted upon me he still came out on top.

My broken nose, stolen money, wasted time, physical pain and emotional trauma easily trump all of the penalties he faces for beating the crap out of me for no reason.

So why haven't I done anything about all of this besides whine? The answer is, I can't. My attacker is under 18, legally

not an adult by Ohio law and the police are keeping all of the proceedings of his trials private.

After repeated calls the only thing that I have gained is a hatred for Shaker Heights police. The cops have not been helpful. They have refused to tell me when the student's trials would be and have not notified me about the proceedings in the impending trial.

At the very least, I should have access to the police report, but the cops have been obstinate to a point that is far past frustrating.

It is a sad day in America when victims of violent crimes are not allowed to exact legal and judicial revenge against their perpetrators.

When a crime like this is committed, there should be many more repercussions for the offender than just probation; one who commits a crime such as this has much more malice and rage in

his heart than the average person and should seek counseling.

I'm not saying that I want to know why he attacked me. At this point I don't really care. I just want to know that I am safe and that our great American judicial system has taken care of this little threat to society.

It's too bad that in this case the police are protecting the deviant to the point where I feel I'm being screwed over by the very system in place to protect me.

Maybe I have already given the student his metaphorical kick to the face, but I sure wish that the cops would tell me if I have (and how hard I hit him).

**"I was brutally assaulted and bleeding from my nose and mouth,"**



## We need a resolution...

**Shaker Speaks about New Year's resolutions for 2002**



**LAVALLE ROBINSON JUNIOR**

"To be a better Shaker Raider wrestler."

"To keep my room clean. I had the same resolution last year but I'm trying it again."

**AUDRA DUCA FRESHMAN**



**ADDIE GOARD SOPHOMORE**

"To do all of my homework."

"To stop eating Ramen noodles everyday."

**KRISTEN KING SENIOR**



**NIKKI MCQUEEN SOPHOMORE**

"To stop talking back to my parents."

"To be on time to every class one day and to finish a test in one period."

**ARDIE MCWILLIAMS SOPHOMORE**



**BRITTANY HAYWOOD SENIOR**

"To inform people of the seriousness of STDs."

## NEW YEAR'S AROUND THE WORLD

### Dumplings in China and mistletoe in France

By Marguerite Moore  
Staff Reporter

When freshman Yue Gao first came to America three years ago, the usual shock of an American New Year did not affect him. In fact, he felt at home. The crowded streets, loud celebrations and happy gatherings were all very similar to the Chinese New Year which he had celebrated every year. He found the celebrations were so similar. As the booms of firecrackers echoed the streets, families gathered together in houses filled with decorations and plants. The handing out of money and candy to children was much enjoyed by the celebrators. But once Gao left China, he found that his family celebrations were much more modest.

**"Chinese use firecrackers because of a legend about a monster named New Year and the people wanted to scare it away."**

Yue Gao  
freshman

mediate family [goes there] to work. Afterward, we gather with my three other families at my aunt's house and count down. We eat a lot and it's a big family meal. On December 31, all of the countries who follow the Gregorian calendar count down to the new year. However, around the world the types of celebrations are very different.

The French New Year is the one celebration you usually do with friends," said foreign language teacher and French

native Suzanne Gyurgyik. "You usually have a big meal and at midnight say 'happy new year' and kiss under the mistletoe. [One year] I went to the Champs Elysees and everyone was kissing each other. After midnight, some [people] do dancing at a night club." Gyurgyik also believes that the French New Year is fairly different from the American New Year. "We don't have a ball thing. [Also] we wouldn't watch TV. And the mistletoe is a big French tradition. We go in the woods and get the mistletoe and hang it under the entrance."

Not far away in Germany, the celebrations are of a completely different nature. "There's a big occasion at New Year for fireworks since there is no July 4th," said German teacher Mary Ashcraft. "[The German] serve an incredibly festive drink which involves the burning of sugar cane. It becomes hot malt wine." Ashcraft believes that the parties and other celebrations in Germany are fairly similar to those in America except there are "a lot more fireworks."

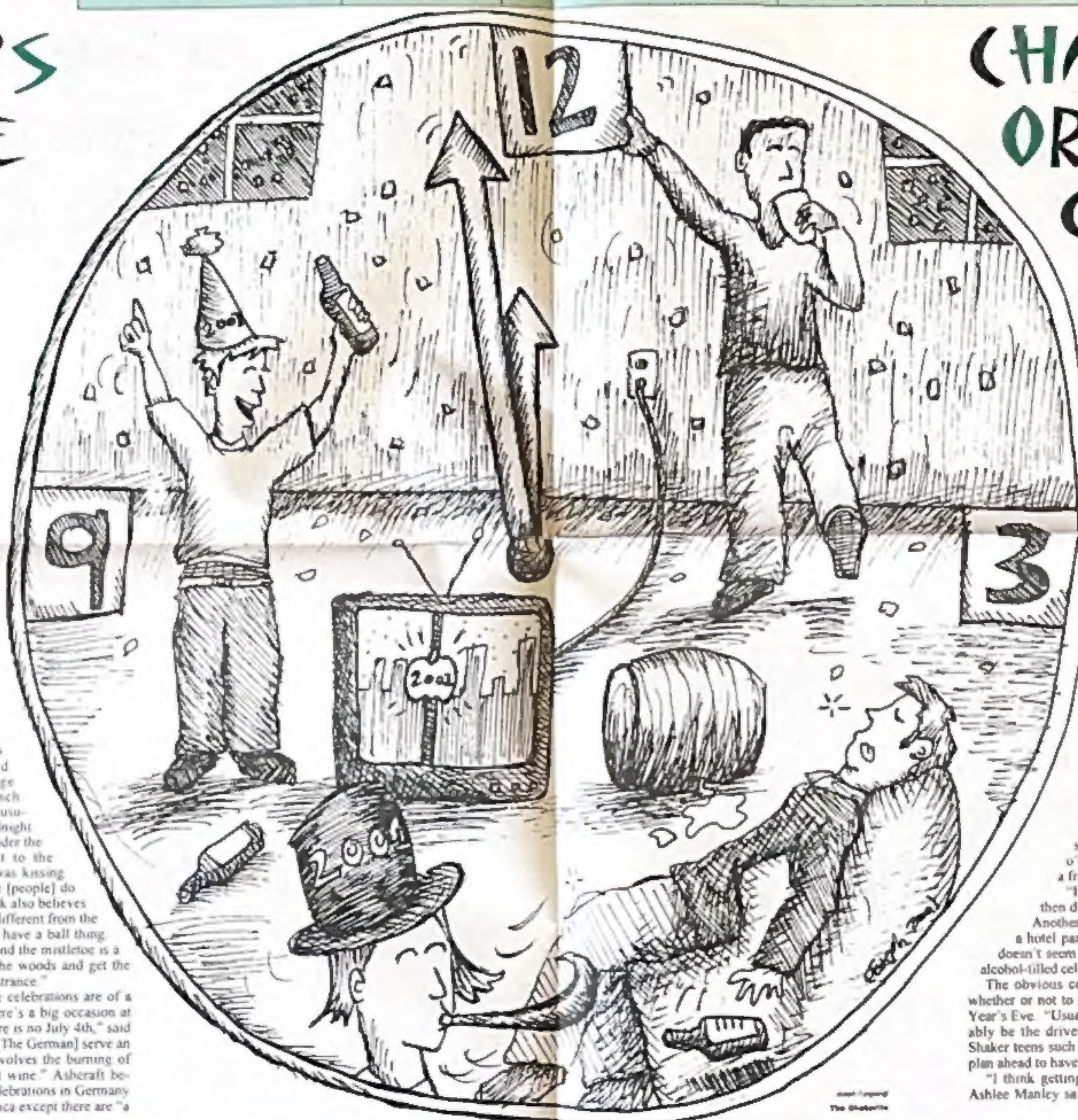
The celebration of New Year's was first observed in ancient Babylon 4000 years ago. It began when the new moon appears and ended with the full moon. Soon after the Babylonians, Western nations also began celebrating New Year's on Jan. 1, the day symbolized by the circumcision of baby Jesus. Over the years, New Year's has greatly changed. The once religious event is now more of a fun and cheerful party. Recently in 1976, the U.S. started a trend called First Night, which is an outdoor family-focused, cultural event meant to replace hard-core partying.

While celebrations of the past were once extravagant, students now tend to celebrate in a low key fashion.

"I spend time with family," said freshman Arinze Ezepele. "We cook a whole lot of shrimp."

While many are home on New Year's, junior Theresa Lee always ends up working.

"My mom owns Pearl Of The Orient and all of my im-



## CHAMPAGNE OR SPARKLING GRAPE JUICE?

### Celebrations need not involve 2002 bottles of beer on the wall

By Lisa Moody  
Centerpiece Co-Editor

"So what are your plans for New Year's?" The real question underlying this innocent inquiry is, "So are you going to get drunk?"

This issue is not unlike the one teens face every weekend at parties or social gatherings. For the most part, teens who drink socially on a regular basis see New Year's Eve as a perfect excuse to get trashed, while others are not pressured to change their habits just for this occasion. However, for those who do choose to drink, there is an increased expectation for over-indulgence in alcohol. So basically, you don't just get drunk on New Year's Eve. You get really drunk.

"On New Year's I am going to get extremely drunk," one sophomore said. "I am going to drink until 3 o'clock in the morning until I pass out at a friend's house."

"I'm going to get drunk, rest on the 1st, then drink again," senior Andre Hadley said. Another senior added that she plans to "go to a hotel party and drink." For some reason, there doesn't seem to be an abundance of alternatives to alcohol-fueled celebrations.

The obvious concern for parents is the decision of whether or not to permit their children to drive on New Year's Eve. "Usually I drink a lot, but this year I'll probably be the driver," senior Carolyn Rund said. Some Shaker teens such as Rund are aware of the dangers and plan ahead to have a designated driver.

"I think getting drunk is a personal choice," senior Ashlee Manley said. "As long as you have a designated

driver, there's nothing wrong with it."

"I think people drink on New Year's because it is tradition, and when we were younger we always envied our parents for getting drunk and now we can. I think that police and parents should be more lenient in allowing us to drink. I think it should be legal for kids to drink and have fun about enforcing prevention against kids who drink and drive," said a junior.

But who decided that New Year's Eve is incomplete without a big party with lots of drunk friends? Contrary to popular belief, not everyone is getting trashed.

"I plan to stay sober and have fun with friends and family," senior Sheena Jones said.

Freshman Becky Siegel is among numerous students who opt not to drink on the holiday. "I hang out with my friends," she said.

"I don't drink because beer tastes disgusting," senior Elliot Lyons said. He is one of many teens who choose not to booze.

"When you think of New Year's, you think of alcohol. It's just a tradition," one senior said. "For me, I don't need alcohol," she added. "I start acting crazy if I drink ginger ale or sparkling grape juice."

"I think people drink on New Year's to have fun, celebrate the New Year by getting rid of some of the problems some people face, especially teenagers," senior Andrea Thoenes said. "Drinking is a way to not worry about everyday problems, and the New Year is a time when you can start over."

"This New Year's, I'll probably hang out with my usual group of friends, like I have in years past," sophomore Steve O'Connell said. "Then we go find a party or just chill at someone's house if there's nothing to do. I think people drink because it's a special occasion and they feel they need to drink to have the best time they can."

According to sophomore Briggs Patterson, "parents are usually lenient [about kids drinking] because they are wasted, too."

"Last year I just had a party at my house with about 25 of my friends," sophomore Nikki Goddard said. "We just chilled in the basement, played pool and watched movies. And we had sparkling grape juice."



**JORDAN ROGOFF SENIOR**

"To read all the books in the 'Lord of the Rings' series before I see the movie."

"To spend less money."

**ANGELIQUE CROMWELL JUNIOR**



**CASSIE GLADDEN FRESHMAN**

"To dye my hair green."

"No more drama."

**MIKE BASS SENIOR**



**KALVIN WALL SOPHOMORE**

"To study hard and to concentrate on my schoolwork."

"To get to know a really hot upperclassman"

**HEATHER FUNK FRESHMAN**



**BEN FUERST SENIOR**

"To be more involved in high school for the last four months of my career."

"I'm going to work harder to encourage everyone around me."

**JOHN ADDISON ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**



**ALAN CAMERON SOPHOMORE**

"To drink more milk."

"I want to be an all-state lacrosse player."

**MATT SPEED SOPHOMORE**



# The dish on old eats

By Emily Ozan  
Staff Reporter



Will Wemer  
News Co-editor

It's Thanksgiving, and Christmas is here

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Only one small problem: it begins to look a lot like Christmas before Thanksgiving. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving, I ventured up to Van Aken Center and witnessed exactly how Thanksgiving has turned into little more than a prelude to the winter holidays.

The first problem arose when I turned on the car radio. One station, Mix 106.5, played all Christmas music all day long, nearly a whole month before Christmas Eve.

Even worse, Mix 106.5 promises to play 24 hours of Christmas music every day until New Year's Eve. Alas, the only station that plays '80s music has crossed over to the darkness of holiday season exploitation.

Once I got to Van Aken, I entered Bath and Body Works and found a huge display of spiced and scented products for the winter season. The shop was festooned with Christmas trees, artificial snow, candy canes, snowmen and other things that made me sick to my stomach.

Not only can you indulge yourself in horrible diva remakes of holiday hymns 24 hours a day, you can also indulge in the wonderful Bath and Body scents of Christmas before the Thanksgiving turkey is basted.

As I exited Bath and Body Works in distaste, I went over to Medic Drug to grab some M&Ms for an after-Thanksgiving dinner snack.

The problem was that all the large quantities of M&Ms were housed in Christmas packaging. Sorry, but red and green just don't fit in with the earthy pigments of Thanksgiving.

As I left the drugstore and stepped into the parking lot, the Van Aken Center trees erupted in white Christmas lights. For crying out loud, you might as well call them Thanksgiving lights.

Call me a Scrooge if you want to, but it seems as if the marketing of Christmas has turned Thanksgiving into a weekend when we all eat and talk about how it's only a month until Christmas.

Those poor turkeys! Their one special day has been overrun by the anticipation of presents, the madness of parents killing each other in the mall to find "the perfect gift" and the Rugrats Christmas special. (Which is followed by the Rugrats Hanukkah special and the all-new Rugrats Kwanzaa special. And I am not making this up.)

I used to see Thanksgiving as the last break before the hectic routine of December. Now, Thanksgiving is nothing but a promotional tool for companies to sell the gift of giving and make a quick buck on a four-day weekend.

I wonder what the Pilgrims would have thought.

How does tongue, beet soup and a side of chopped liver sound for dinner? In one word - YUCK!

Though nothing could be more revolting to people of our generation, some parents and grandparents find this meal very appetizing.

"The younger generation has a change of taste, and they just don't know about [certain food]," said Boris Mikhli, owner of Boris' Kosher Meats. "Ten or 15 years ago, we used to sell a dozen tongues a week. Now, we only sell about three dozen a year."

"My grandmother used to eat frog legs and tongue. I thought it was gross," sophomore Rachel Kaplan said.

Parents and grandparents such as Rachel Kaplan's feel that the tongue, liver and heart of animals are no less edible than a chicken wing or thigh.

"My dad loves chopped liver. When I see him eating it I just think, how could he eat that?" Kaplan said. In response to his daughter's disgust, Ira Kaplan says he likes chopped liver for the same reason he likes any other food: "I think it tastes good," he said.

Some parents don't stop at chicken liver. They go for the goose liver, too.

"My dad eats goose liver. He orders it when we go out to nice restaurants. I tried it once and it tastes like throw-up," sophomore Will Seitz said.

Kent State University anthropology professor Richard Feinberg explained the difference in generational taste. "As people come over here from other countries, parents are interested in foods from back home while kids get more Americanized," he said.

Americans separate themselves in other ways, too. "Rabbit is eaten everywhere else in the world but the U.S.," Sanford Herskovitz of Mr. Brisket said. "It's all because of Bugs Bunny."

To some, the heart is more than an organ, according to freshman Corey Morrison.

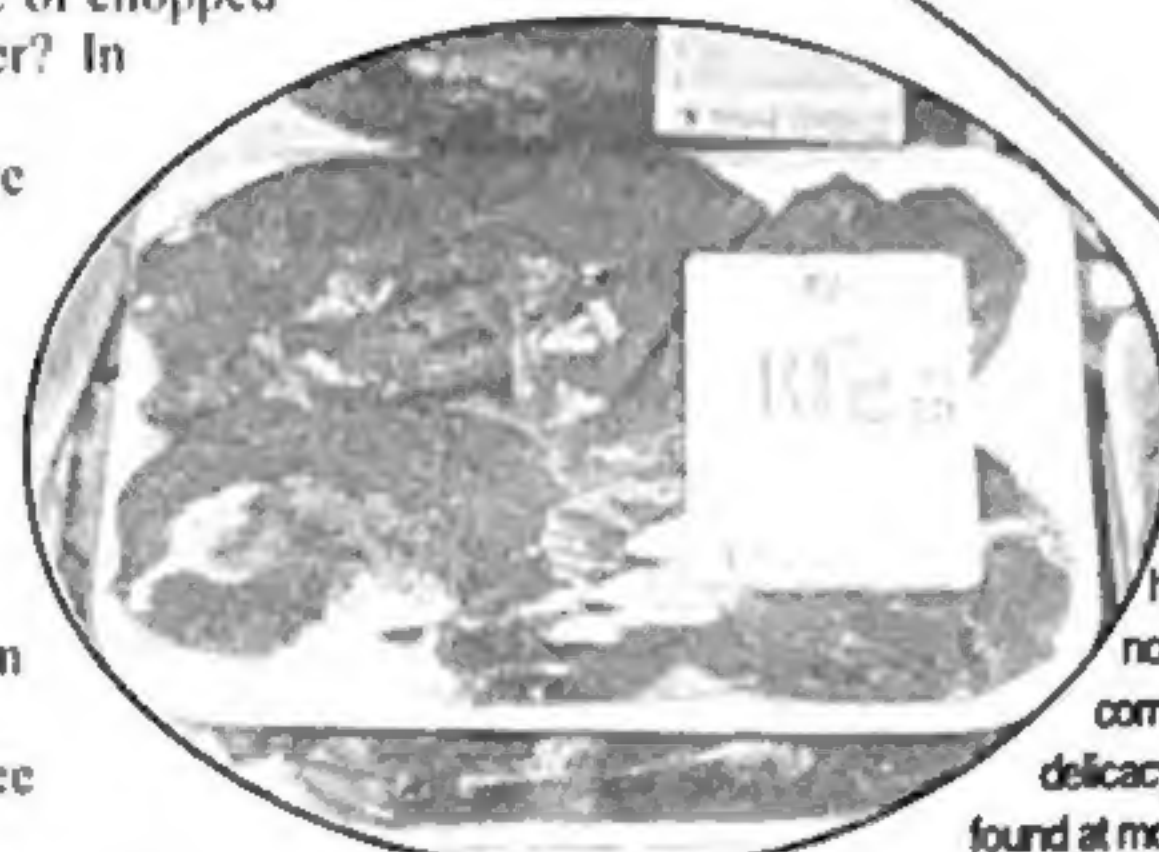
"[My parents eat] chicken hearts. You buy the chicken in a little bag," Morrison said, adding that his parents scoop out the heart of the chicken and put in soup.

"I think they're weird," he said.

Junior Theresa Lee's parents prefer an occasional meal of pigs feet.

"Well, there's a lot of traditional Chinese food that I'm not used to. It's not a part of American culture, and I consider it gross," Lee said.

Eating gross food is just something that kids and teenagers have to get used to. As long as parents are around, mysterious meals will be, too.



Cow hearts, a not-so-common delicacy, can be found at most butcher shops.

Astrid Mathews/The Shakerite

Jeanne Byrd/The Shakerite

## If you can read this, you're too close

Students are glued to bumper stickers

By Simona Karasik  
Staff Reporter

You're driving down Shaker Boulevard, banging your head to an obscure '80s tune, when something catches your eye on the car in front of you. "I Like Cats - They Taste Just Like Chicken."

By now you're probably wondering what was going through this guy's brain when he tacked that bumper sticker on his vehicle.

The fact is these little wonders of individual thought and expression are ubiquitous. They represent the thoughts of the intellectual, the political junkie, the deeply religious or the loyal teenager's favorite band. They allow you to dive deeply into the thoughts of that special person who, um, likes to eat cats.

Generally there are two opinions on the subject: either the stickers are incredibly obnoxious and overrated, or fun and amusing.

"It's like telling the same joke over and over again," global studies teacher Bob Wonson said.

Bumper stickers don't only appear on cars. AP U.S. History

teacher Tim Mitchell has a fine collection of these stickers on two podiums (one in each classroom where he teaches). They are there to send positive messages to his students, as well as provoke thought and discussion. Some of his students contribute to the podium of stickers as well.

"They're a nice way to create a meaningful moment to learn," Mitchell said of his multiple stickers. Mitchell's "Subvert the Dominant Paradigm" sticker is thought provoking for many students who don't quite know what it means. According to Mitchell, a paradigm is a model or framework that we use to organize our understanding. The sticker advocates adopting a novel way to look at the world.

Junior Alexis Hayman sports five bumper stickers on her Volvo. All the stickers have a political theme. She received them in Nicaragua as a witness for peace. She doesn't mind answering questions about her stickers while on the road.

"They're cool because people will pull up next to me and ask me what they're about," she said. Her favorite sticker is "To live without violence is our right... let's



make it a reality today."

Individual beliefs have spawned more than a few categories of bumper stickers. Religion is a common theme. There are the religious references to Jesus such as "My Boss is a Jewish Carpenter," or other, more threatening messages like "Will the Road You're On Get You To My Place? — God."

Equally numerous are the "proud parent" stickers. It's not unusual to spot a minivan bearing the words, "My Child is an Honor Student at [insert school here]." The popular funny rebuttal to such stickers is the obvious "My Kid Beat Up Your Honor Student."

And who can forget the humorous "causes and gripes" category. An individual's right to grumble about the government is clear when the "Steal for a Living, the Government Needs Competition" sticker sits above the tailpipe. And there's always the credo of the lazy: "All I Want Is Less To Do, More Time To Do It, And Higher Pay For Not Getting It Done."

Whether your stickers are there to hold your car together, proclaim your individuality, remind you of good times, or boldly state your mind, remember that they'll always be there to cheer you up or annoy the hell out of you.



# Bleach isn't just for cleaning anymore

By **Aalayah Rasheed and Jeanne Bright**  
Business Manager and A&E Co-editor

Want to know how to make your jeans look hip for winter? Here are three fun and easy methods you can try at home to design your own original jeans.

They may take a while, but the result is definitely worth it.

All of the supplies

for these crafts can be found at the drug store or at a craft supplies store.

**W A R N -** ING! These projects involve bleach so cover all working areas with a plastic tarp or a newspaper (but not this one!) and choose a well-ventilated area because it is hazardous.

For a rustic feel, bleach shapes and patterns randomly onto your pants with a brush.

Paint over the bleach spots with acrylic paints.

The acrylic paints will eventually fade or wash out, so for something more permanent use puffy paint or fabric paint.

For further excitement, roll up the bottoms of your pants and sew fabric over the cuffs you've made.

Make flared bottoms by cutting up the side seams of the pants and inserting the cloth of your choice.

For a more spirited look,

bleach the entire jean (works best with light colored jeans) by putting them in a bucket full of a half water and half bleach mixture.

Make sure to use an old bucket and wear rubber gloves because it gets rather messy.

When the jeans have been bleached to the desired tone, rinse them thoroughly.

If you want to dye the jeans a different color, bleach the jeans as light as possible. Also, the color needs to be consistent throughout your pair of jeans so that the dyed color is also the same.

Pour the bleach out of the bucket and rinse it thoroughly as well because you will be using the bucket again to dye your pants. If the bleach is not properly taken out, the dye in the bucket will dissolve.

Follow directions of any specific brand of dye of your sired color (preferably a school-spirited red) and dye the bleached jeans.

To get a deeper and richer color, keep the jeans in the dye solution for a longer time.

After the jeans have been dyed, rinse the jeans and the bucket thoroughly until the rins-

ing water is clear. Hang the pants up to dry.

For a little spice after the pants are dry, stud the pockets with a Bedazzler in a school-inspired design (like your graduating class year or the Raider). The Bedazzler is available at Michael's craft store at Golden Gate Plaza on Mayfield Rd. off of I-271 for under \$15.

Finally, for the ultra-hip super sexy low-rise look, cut off the waistband of your jeans (you can even use this as a headband later!).

Cut the bottoms off each pant leg a couple of inches to make capris.

Dip a scrubber brush into the bleach and water solution. Take the brush and be creative!

Scrub the brush across the pants in any direction to create a bleach-blasted look.

Keep it on the top half of the jeans so they look worn in. Next, make different color droplets of acrylic paint all over the pants.

Use short brushstrokes to spread the paint.

For the back, find a very trusting friend or use your own hands to make painted handprints on

the butt pockets.

Glue star-shaped or circular rhinestones down the back and repeat the paint splatters at the bottom.

If you are too lazy to make your own jeans, you can find styles like it at Delias.com.

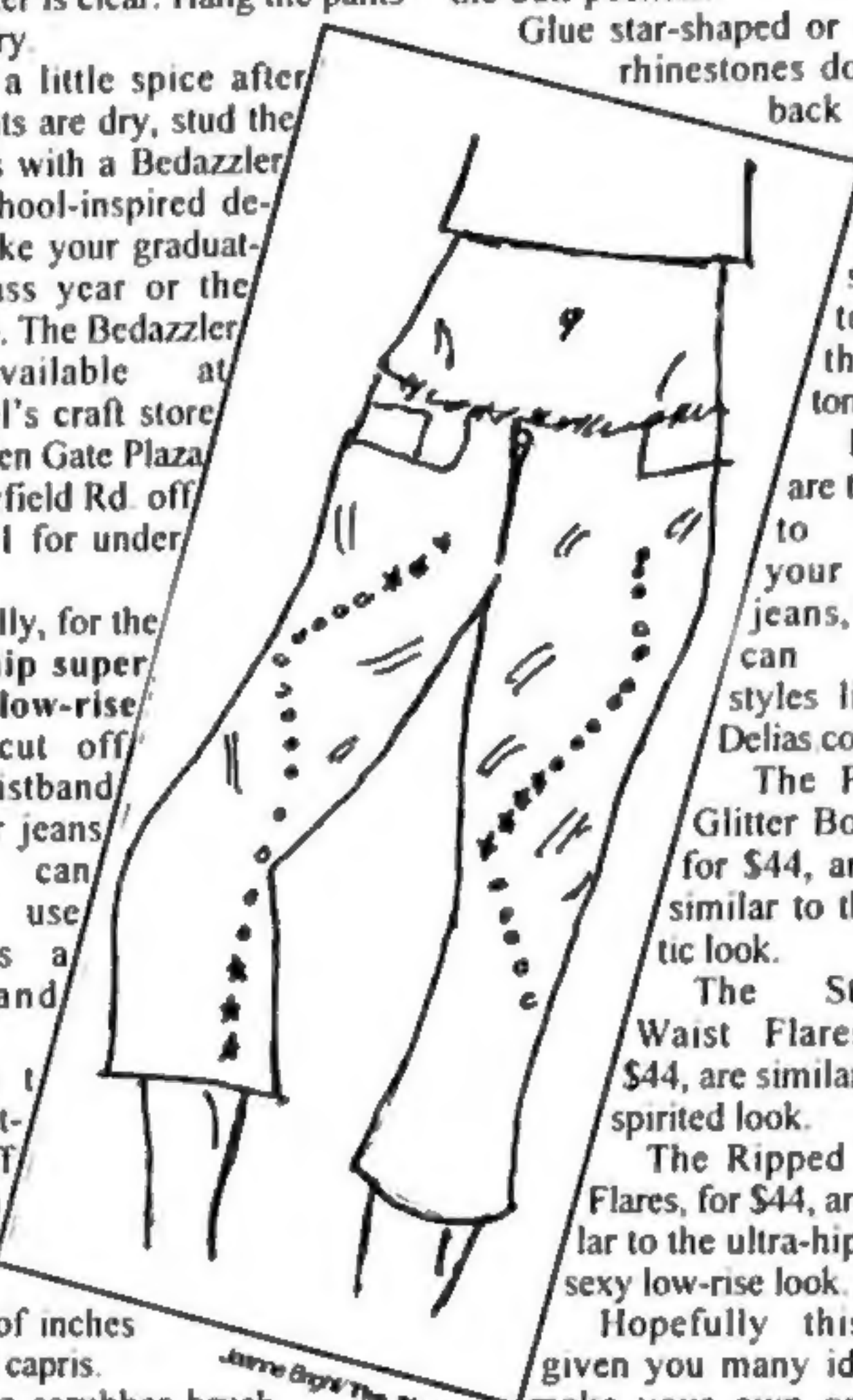
The Painted Glitter Bootlegs, for \$44, are very similar to the rustic look.

The Studded Waist Flares, for \$44, are similar to the spirited look.

The Ripped Waist Flares, for \$44, are similar to the ultra-hip super sexy low-rise look.

Hopefully this has given you many ideas to make your own original pants at home.

So YOU think you're crafty?



## SYTYC!

If you think you are the craftiest person around, sign up for SYTYC! Drop your name, grade and phone number in the box outside of room 229 for the February issue.

## the boxOFFICE

12/21/01-12/30/01  
**Radio City X-Mas Spectacular**  
State Theatre  
\$25.00-\$60.00  
tickets.com

12/21/01-12/23/01  
**A Christmas Carol**  
Ohio Theatre  
\$30.00-\$38.00  
tickets.com

12/22/01  
**Wish You Were Here Pink Floyd Tribute**  
Odeon  
\$8.50  
ticketmaster.com

1/22/02  
**DJ Battle of the Bands Finals**  
Peabody's Downunder  
\$7.00  
ticketmaster.com

1/27/02  
**Creed**  
Gund Arena  
\$38.50-\$42.50  
ticketmaster.com

1/30/02  
**Allie Keys**  
State Theatre  
\$35.00-\$45.00  
tickets.com

## The hills are alive with the sounds of Arlo

By **Rachel Morgenstern-Clarren**  
Staff Reporter

Arlo Hill hasn't been sleeping well lately.

"With the play, I've been getting home at 11 o'clock if I was lucky, but usually 12 or later," said Hill, a sophomore, who starred as Benvolio in Shaker's production of "Romeo and Juliet".

Hill is involved with several drama and musical programs at Shaker.

He is a member of Chanticleers, Men's Ensemble and Wind Ensemble, where he plays percussion. However, Hill enjoys his theater activities the most, which includes Senior Ensemble and various plays.

"The theater program at Shaker is really great. Mr. Thornton's just an incredible teacher and person. All the acting programs at Shaker are just at such a professional level," Hill said.

Junior Sarah English, Hill's co-star in "Romeo and Juliet" has kind words about Hill. "He's very talented and cool. He's awesome at singing and making bad jokes," she said.

Hill's love for all things musically oriented began at age 4, when he said he was "always singing."

He also acted with Heights Youth Theater and went to theater camp at the Cleveland Playhouse. Hill currently sings bass in Chanticleers and Men's En-



Curt Harding/The Shakerite

Sophomore Arlo Hill plays the marimba, which is one of his many talents. Hill is a member of Chanticleers, Wind Ensemble, Senior Ensemble and Men's Ensemble.

semble.

His older sister Chloe's experiences with theater inspired Hill to try out for Senior Ensemble.

"Seeing how much it affected my sister and how fun and valuable it could be, I wanted to join," said Hill.

Hill's talent has been exhibited to the student body as a result.

"I thought he had an outstanding acting ability. He was phenomenal," junior Pam Wiznitzer said.

Sophomore Selena Simmons-Duffin admires Hill's vocal abilities.

"He has the most amazing voice, with a really big range," Simmons-Duffin said. "I had his-

tory with him last year. He's also smart."

It's true. Not every actor, singer and musician is also contemplating a future in medicine.

"He's an enthusiastic student who's naturally inquisitive," science teacher Ken Culek said about Hill.

Hill is interested in being a neurosurgeon.

But he claims this juxtaposition is not as unrelated as it sounds.

"In neurology, you have the actual physical side of the mind, and exactly how it works. When you act you have to know how the mind works, too. Theater is truly a reflection of life," Hill said.

## Brake for cool winter movies

By **Cassie Heller**  
Staff Reporter

With winter break fast approaching, Shaker students are looking forward to watching some of their favorite flicks.

"I like 'Home Alone' because it's on every Christmas," junior Suzanne Youngner said.

Films can also serve as a mainstay for some families' holiday festivities. "Watching 'A Christmas Story' each year is a family tradition," sophomore Andrea Kutik said.

Released in 1983, "A Christmas Story" is about a young boy named Ralphie, and his quest to obtain the perfect Christmas gift — a Red Ryder Carbine Action 200 Shot Range Model Air Rifle — despite opposition from his parents and even Santa Claus. "A Christmas Story" has become a family favorite throughout the years.

Sophomore Christine Wagner prefers an old classic. "I like 'White Christmas' because we watch it every Christmas," she said.

"Every year our family watches 'National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation' and 'A Charlie Brown Christmas,'" sophomore Caleb Boise said.

Holiday movies are not the only type of flicks Shaker students plan to watch in their upcoming free time. The movie theater is a popular destination over winter break, especially when the snow is piling up outside. "Not Another Teen Movie" looks like it is going to be funny," sophomore Addie Goard said.

Some students, like junior Katie Dubyak, enjoy watching their old favorites (especially the '80s genre) over break. "I like 'Sixteen Candles' and 'Dirty Dancing' because they're fun to watch," she said.

Some students spend time over break watching TV specials. "I'm inspired to go snowboarding after watching 'Johnny Tsunami'." Also, "Four Rooms" is a great New Year's movie," junior Emily Sattin said.

"Johnny Tsunami" is the story of a Hawaiian surfer boy who moves to Vermont, takes up snowboarding and begins to have conflicts with the snobby kids at his new private school. "Four Rooms" takes place on New Year's Eve at a rundown Hollywood hotel and chronicles the adventures of Ted, the new bellhop, and his run-ins with guests from four different rooms.

## Top Ten Holiday Videos

10. "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989)
9. "White Christmas" (1954)
8. "Black Christmas" (1974)
7. "A Charlie Brown Christmas" (1965)
6. "A Christmas Carol" (1951)
5. "The Nightmare Before Christmas" (1993)
4. "A Christmas Story" (1983)
3. "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (1966)
2. "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946)
1. "Miracle on 34th Street"

Courtesy of www.eonline.com





# SPORTS

**Top three games to see over break**

1. MBB Jan. 4  
vs. Mentor 6 p.m.
2. Hockey Jan. 4  
vs. St. Edward 9 p.m.
3. WBB Dec. 29  
vs. Solon 6 p.m.

## Private School Property

### Public schools manhandled in state championships

By Jeff Greenwald and Katherine Ekeberg  
Sports Co-editors

Shaker is a powerhouse among Division I public schools in Ohio, but pales in comparison to the legacies of private schools throughout the state.

In recent years Shaker has been defeated in countless playoff runs by private school teams. This includes a final four loss by the hockey team to Toledo-St. Johns and a state championship loss by the basketball team to Cincinnati Moeller both occurring in the spring 1999.

In the past five years private schools have won 57 of 136 state championships (42 percent), while they account for only 6 percent of teams competing in Division I sports. It is a widely held belief that private schools recruit athletes. However, recruiting players to enhance sports teams is illegal under Ohio High School Athletic Association guidelines.

A sign hanging in Shaker's men's locker room states the guideline as set by the OHSAA. The sign reads, "You will be ineligible if you are recruited by a person or group of persons to change schools. It may also affect the eligibility of the schools' athletic teams."

Because Shaker is a public school, recruiting would be difficult even if it were not illegal because it would require convincing a student's parents to move to the

city. However, Shaker can try to discourage kids from transferring to private schools.

"I try to recruit our own guys, but to go after a kid that goes to another high school is wrong," said football coach David Sedmak.

Despite the rule, there are still ways to circumvent it. If a student contacts a school of his own accord, the school is entitled to entice that student.

The OHSAA has recently approved measures to discourage recruiting. They include a law that causes athletes who transfer schools after ninth grade to become ineligible for the span of one year.

According to the OHSAA website, exceptions to this rule include: if the student's legal guardian changes school districts, if the superintendents of both districts enter into a written agreement in order to protect the student's physical and mental well-being, or if the school closes.

In many other states recruiting is not a problem. In Wisconsin, public and private schools are segregated into their own divisions, while in Pennsylvania and Texas the powerhouses are almost always public schools.

"I don't have absolute proof, but my guess is that there is recruiting," Athletic Director Susan Brown said.

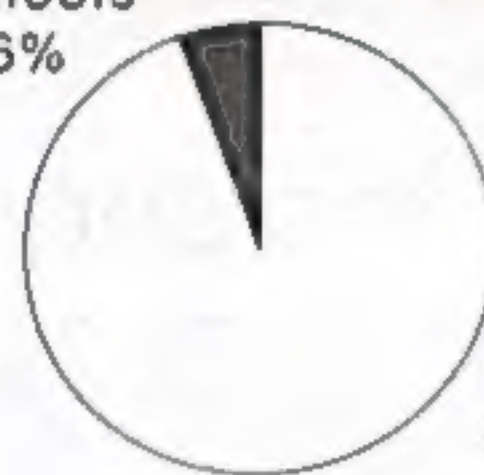
Additional reporting for this story was done by Matt Seidner and Raymond Daley.



Michael Tucker, class of 1999, looks down in dismay following a state championship loss to Cincinnati Moeller, a private school. The championship trophy looms in the background only reaffirming the team's defeat. Private schools have taken 41 percent of DI state championships in the last five years.

#### Schools competing in Division I

Private Schools  
6%



Public Schools  
94%

#### Division I state championships in past five years

Private Schools  
42%



Public Schools  
58%

## Profanity runs rivalry despite efforts of administration, coach

Shaker hockey fans rejoice following a goal during a game against University School. The rivalry has pushed school administrators to the limit in recent years due to derogatory cheers and inappropriate language.



Brian Gamm  
The Shakerite

Screaming, chanting, throwing, swearing. The list of unruly behavior goes on, as does the bad blood between University School and Shaker.

The hockey rivalry is our single greatest display of school spirit, but it comes at a price. Derogatory chants are slung from the US side to the Shaker side and back again. Profanity rumbles through the arena disguised as cheers and screams from signs that are confiscated within the first five minutes of every game.

This year was no different, as old cheers returned and new ones joined the arsenal. These included "US sucks dick," "HB hoes" and the infamous bull—chant accompanied by cries of "We're not racist." Shaker fans chucked fish onto the ice and followed it with a cigarette lighter. And those are just the highlights.

Administrators and security try in vain to restore order. Historically, they've had no success. Only this year, after a PA announcement by Principal Michael Griffith on the school day prior to the game, was security's impact even marginal.

When students see security approach the stands, the profane



By Jeff Greenwald  
Sports Co-editor

**"These are the same students who are members of a widely publicized human relations group...yet they cannot be troubled to behave decently at a high school hockey game."**

cheers lose steam, but when they leave, the cheers start up again. Students are not oblivious to what is going on. They are in high school, they know right from wrong.

Head hockey coach Mike Bartley is also fiercely against the derogatory cheering.

"Chanting 'BS' and that kind of thing I have always found offensive," Bartley said. "You would think fans at a high school event would be better behaved."

What saddened me the most was seeing a kid of no more than seven sitting with his older sister in the student section. He got to watch one of the greatest high school rivalries in the area, but had to listen to the crap pouring out of high school students' mouths, some of whom were barely twice his age.

These are the same students who are members of a widely publicized human relations group and are given opportunities that people at other public schools dream of. Yet, they cannot be troubled to behave decently at a high school hockey game.

Nobody is asking for the spirit to stop, but it shouldn't involve profanity. Tradition is good, but sometimes change is better.

Despite anything administrators or security personnel do, the ultimate power lies with students. The only way security can truly stop anything is by throwing fans out, hardly a reasonable option. Students know what is appropriate, and that is the bottom line. They just need to do it.